

BETHEL MESSENGER



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From the Pastor

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:28-30 RSV)

My father grew up on a farm in North Carolina. His parents grew up in the mountains of South Carolina, an area referred to as the Dark Corner. A term coined by a politician who insulted the people who had lived in relative isolation for generations. Their dialect retained much of the old English that their people had spoken when they first arrived in this country. Born in 1926, he has memories of the Great Depression. Times when he cried because he was hungry and times when he had no shoes to wear to school. He doesn't speak with any anger about that time, it was just the way it was. Two neighbor women saved their farm from being repossessed. Family members from South Carolina stayed on the farm while they worked in the knitting mills.

On the farm they plowed using two horses yoked together. The horses shared the burden of pulling the plow through the earth. Perhaps you have been in Northern Wisconsin or the Shawano area and have seen the Amish plowing with horses. Together the farmer and horses are able to do a job that one on their own could not do.

Before Communion we have been singing a song by Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy. “Come to me, Come to Me, All who are weary, All who are burdened down and I will give you rest. My

yoke is easy, my burden feels so light. Come to me, come to me and I will give you rest.” He is echoing the call of Jesus and the offer of rest for our soul. It seems to me that there comes a time in each of our lives when we feel burdened down, tired and in need of rest. Jesus is making the offer to share the yoke, to share the burden. In those times when we feel burdened down just knowing that there is someone who cares lightens the load.

Our last Lenten Speaker was to be Janice from Ebenezer UCC in Sheboygan. Again, Mother Nature had something else in mind. That afternoon I had spoken with Janice on the telephone. She told me a story about her grandmother. I did not accurately pass on the words she said, so I would like to try again. During the depression her grandmother kept extra sets of clean sheets and pillowcases. It was a time when men were on the move seeking employment, someplace, somewhere. When these men would come to their farm seeking shelter, they were given shelter for the night in the barn. These men who bore the heavy burden of the Depression were given clean sheets for their night's sleep because Janice's Grandmother said and acted on the belief that, “All of God's creatures need a clean place to lay their head.”

As members of Christ's church, we are members of Christ's body. When we help a neighbor or family member, we are sharing their burden and lightening their load. We become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. What would have happened to my father's family if the neighbor women had not stepped in to save their farm? Where would

those men have slept if a farm wife had not treated them with dignity and believed that, "All of God's creatures need a clean place to lay their head?"

Jesus has called us, offering to share our load and give us a yoke that is easy. He also asks us to learn from him. He tells us he is gentle and humble and is willing to help carry our load. These are priceless goals- and of course as Rev. Franz Rigert said, "Love, love, love."

Pastor Diane

First Communion

May 5th we will celebrate the first time Gus Raquet and Kamryn Voss will share in Communion. We welcome them to Christ's Table with great joy. Gus is son of Eric and Katie Raquet. Kamryn is daughter of David and Rachel Voss.

Reminder

May 26th Worship Services switch to 9:30 for the summer months.

Ordination/Installation

The Ordination/Installation of Pastor Diane will be on June 2nd at Bethel UCC at 3:00 p.m. Rev Kim Henning will be leading worship. Rev. Jane Anderson will be the representative from the UCC Conference. There will be a meal to follow.



A Mother's Love

A mother's love is something
That no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion
And sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish
And enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it
Or take that love away...
It is patient and forgiving
When all others forsaking,
And it never falls or falters
Even though the heart is breaking...
It believes beyond believing
When the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty
Of the rarest brightest gems...
It is far beyond defining,
It defies all explanation,
And it stills remains a secret
Like the mysteries of creation...

A many splendoured miracle
Man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence
Of Gods' tender guiding hand
Submitted by Joyce Loy

Mission Work

May Mission work will continue to collect items for the Shipping Container Project 2019 to Haiti. A wish list of items they are looking for can be found in the narthex. Many of the items they are looking for may be items in your home that are collecting dust.

Ice Cream Floats

Come join us for ice cream floats in the Fellowship Hall on May 19, last day of Sunday School.

Consistory Minutes

April 9, 2019

Members present: Dennis Roethel, Mark Zimmermann, Beverly Voss, Patte Puetz, Kris Dirks, Lenora Stuckmann, Pastor Diane Cayemberg



The meeting was called to order at 6:34pm with a devotion and prayer led by Pastor Diane.

The secretary's minutes were reviewed. There was a motion (Kris/Bev) to approve the secretary's minutes from last month. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer reports were reviewed. Patte received another interest check, we are hoping that in the next month or two that we will start receiving direct deposit. We also received a K1 for tax purposes of having an investment. Kris contacted our accountant, we don't need this form as we don't file taxes currently. If we have something that happens out of the norms for a church, we would then be required to file taxes. There was a motion (Bev/Patte) to approve all the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report

- All the shut-in's were visited and served communion the past month.
- The plan for Maundy Thursday is to have people wash each other's hands as they enter the sanctuary. The communion will be served 12 people at a time, they will come up to the table.
- The sign on County Line road that was taken out by a plow has been fixed by Tom Cayemberg and is now back up.
- There is a United Church of Christ Musicians conference in Madison, titled United Church and Community Through Music and Art-UCC Musicians Association National Conference. It

runs June 25th to June 28th. There was a motion made (Mark/Kris) to cover the cost to send Jodi Voss to the conference, as John Benke will be there, who is very well known for bell choir. It passed unanimously.

- We will likely need door openers and greeters for Good Friday.
- Rev. Becky Johnston from Bethlehem invited Pastor Diane to do some joint confirmation work with Rev Yurs.
- The Rural Church Ministry is meeting on April 29th at St. Mark's.
- There is an Ecumenical Pastor's meeting on April 11th.
- Pastor Diane received a call from We Energies about making rebate information available to us.

Correspondence

- Mark Sherry for the Tri County New asked us to submit our Holy Week Schedule.

Old Business

- The Installation/Ordination for Pastor Diane will take place on June 2nd. The offering for the installation will go to the Wisconsin Conference Student Aid fund. Pastor Diane is estimating between 100 to 120 people. The installation will begin at 3pm, with dinner to follow at around 5pm.
- Spring cleaning is scheduled for April 27th, the back-up is May 4th.

New Business

- We received a quote from Renegade Pest Management for the bugs. It is \$150 for the season, which includes spraying 3 times. They will also spray the interior as needed. We decided to schedule time for them to spray. Kris

will get back in contact with Bob Eckardt to schedule this.

- Our insurance agent has remained the same. To fix the siding on the steeple, we have a \$1000 deductible that will need to be met. Dennis is scheduling time with an adjuster to look at it. We will need a lift to reach the V in the bell tower. Dennis and Ken estimate there is damage to 3 or 4 sides of the steeple. The wood slats will also have to be looked at, as they either are rotting or need painting.
- Tom Cayemberg fixed the broken sign on County Line Road. A big thank you to Tom.
- Mark and Judy Zimmermann took the wood section of the church sign out front and added Pastor Diane's name to the sign.
- We discussed plans to have the church landscaping looked at. We decided we might need to receive some quotes and insight on a plan for the flower beds.
- Memorial day weekend services, May 26th, begins our summer schedule and 9:30 am church services. Cindy will need to add this to the announcements and the Messenger.
- The Wednesday night Lenten speakers will receive \$50 at a minimum. If there was a larger donation than that, we will send the full amount received.
- The liability insurance has been increasing 5% to 6%, however we have only increased our budget 5% in the past. We also didn't increase for this year, so Kris noted that we will be over budget in this budget item.
- We discussed how long we need to retain documents and records as well as where to store them. Pastor Diane is going to ask around to see if the UCC has any recommendations or requirements on this.

- Kris needs a mileage form from Pastor Diane, this will serve as back-up for when we are audited.
- Next month we will be performing Pastor Diane's review that she requested at the consistory meeting.

There was a motion (Mark/Bev) to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. It carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lenora Stuckmann

Spring Raffle

Our Spring Raffle Fundraiser is now going full speed ahead! Over 10,000 tickets have already been printed and hopefully many of you have already been selling some of those. Many prizes are on display at church and on our church website. We have a record number of prizes this year. Thank you to all the very generous members who keep supporting this fundraiser. As you sell tickets, they can be turned in with the money to the container at the back of church or to Carol Roethel (at church or at 904 College Ave. Howards Grove - call ahead 828-0009). Tickets and prize lists are always available at church or from Carol Roethel. Don't forget to share the Prize List with friends, family, neighbors, teachers, co-workers, card club groups, bowling team members,, etc., etc. Once someone looks at all the great prizes, they are hooked, and won't be able to resist spending at least \$5 for 8 tickets. Our prize winners drawing will be held on June 9 following worship.